

Memorandum

Date: April 29, 1999

To: BDAC Members

From: Lester A. Snow
Executive Director



Subject: CALFED's Multi-Species Conservation Strategy Update

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program's Multi-species Conservation Strategy Team, consisting of staff from CALFED, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the State Attorney General's Office, has developed the CALFED Multi-species Conservation Strategy (MSCS).

The MSCS will address all federally and state listed, proposed, and candidate species that may be affected by the CALFED Program; other species identified by CALFED that may be affected by the Program and for which adequate information is available also will be addressed in the Strategy. The term evaluated species is used to refer to all of the species that will be addressed by the Strategy.

The MSCS will provide the framework for compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, and the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, and ensure that the overall CALFED Program recovers, contributes to the recovery or maintains species and habitats evaluated under the MSCS. The MSCS is intended to integrate CALFED enhancement programs (Ecosystem Restoration Program and Ecosystem Restoration Coordination) and mitigation actions to provide for improved species and habitat protection, increase assurances of overall Program implementation and provide a process for streamlining California and Federal ESA authorization of incidental take of the evaluated species during Stage 1 implementation. Incidental take is take that results from, but is not the purpose of, an otherwise lawful activity.

The MSCS will not provide take authorization. It will, however, provide the necessary biological information, impact analysis and programmatic conservation measures, that in combination with project specific details will lead to take authorization through one or more of the regulatory mechanisms provided by the Federal ESA, the California ESA, and/or the Natural Community Conservation Planning Act.

CALFED Agencies

California
The Resources Agency
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Water Resources
California Environmental Protection Agency
State Water Resources Control Board

Federal
Environmental Protection Agency
Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

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The attached draft Executive Summary summarizes the Multi-species Conservation Strategy (MSCS). The MSCS, and the Executive Summary will be complete at the time of release of the Programmatic EIS/R to the public in late June. Two major sections of the MSCS that are still in progress and therefore not included in the attached Executive Summary are Assurances and Funding. Assurances, as developed to date, will be discussed as part of the overview presentation at the BDAC meeting.

Attachment